Kodak 2490 RAR Film
(A Development Experiment With An “Oddball” Film)

I was looking to buy some film on eBay when I came across this film named “Kodak 2490 RAR Film”. So, before purchasing any, I looked it up with a “Goggle Search”.

There was not much valuable information about this material that I could find. So this was a “shot in the dark” sort of thing. What little info I could find, at the time, was only that this film was designed to use as:

““Kodak 2490 RAR Film - 2490 Sensitivity, Blue, ISO-64, Negative, 4 mil Estar Based Dyed Gel. // RAR stands for Rapid-access Recording.
There were (are) a wide range of films for high speed photography, oscilloscopes recording etc. // RAR film (estar-AH base) is a member of the Kodak family of RAR films designed especially for rapid-access recording and high temperature (up to 130 deg F) processing. // USES:

**Photorecording with artificial light (all sources) and daylight*
**Bubble chamber recording*
**Cloud-chamber recording*
**Modulated glow-tube (all types) recording*
**CRT photography (all phosphors).””*

This was very scanty information - and - once again, I was on my own. So I bought three (3) boxes that was offered for $30.00 U.S.D. I did read everything that I found, and thought that this so called “Rapid-access Recording” film would work easily. I looked for a developer that was used to develop this stuff. = Nope! = Na-Na!! In that the label on the box read “***open only in photographic darkroom***” I thought that this film was panchromatic in it nature. I had to cut to 120 and 116 spool size in complete darkness.

So for the next two weeks I tried different developers (i.e.= D-76 // Microdol-X // Ethol, LPD // And a few other film developers.) Not much was happening. Only a very thin and under developed image could be seen. (I went through the first box of 40 feet.) I felt that I was “banging my head against the wall with this stuff, and gave thought to just chucking it into the trash and forget all about it. It was very aggravating.

Then, while still trying to get reliable info about the development of this film, I came across something that opened that seemingly “locked door”..... The film was not panchromatic at all, but rather orthochromatic in nature. This meant that I did not have to cut and re-roll in complete darkness of the darkroom. I could use the RED safe light and see what I was doing. This meant better accuracy in the cutting and re-rolling onto spools. Being that I was using a Mamiya M645, I did not have to use backing paper, just about 14 inches of black opaque 5 mil plastic strips as I do with the X-ray films I had been re-rolling for a “leader” and a “trailer” as of the likes with 220 rolled film.

AND THEN it hit me square in the face..... = Why not give this film a try in my X-Ray “Ansco-30/JK” developer? After all, both are orthochromatic emulsions, only the “base” is a little different. So why not give it a shot?

Being that D-76 is a rather “universal developer” I tried that first. Very thin negatives were produced. Other film developers did the exact same thing. Then I gave my mix of “Ansco-30/JK” a try - at the same ratio I use for X-ray films, and for the same time (6 minutes) and temp. (68-F.) Better but sill weak on the density of the negatives. So I doubled the developer working solution. Instead of One ounce of stock to 24 Oz. of water as a working solution, I used Two ounces to 24 Oz. of water, and doubled the time to 12 minutes. That worked very well - it was better - but not what I was after. So I did the same mix, but lengthen the time to 15 minutes, at 68-F. This is what I was looking for. A good nicely exposed and developed usable negative to make photographic prints from.

Above Left is with D-76 / Right is with Ansco

Over all tests of developers tried.

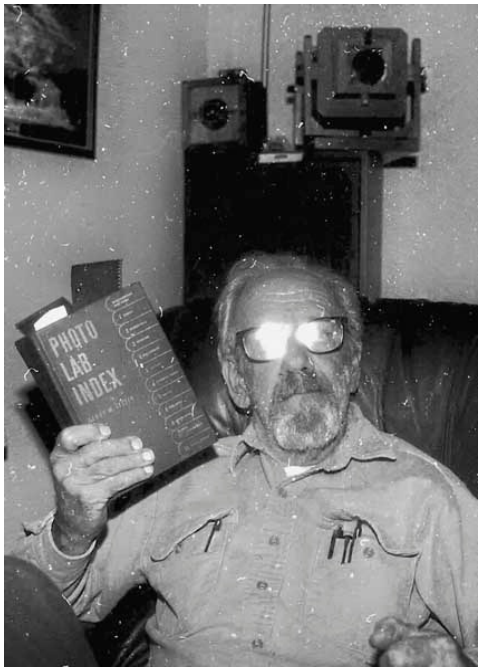
Here are some of the positives that I made in PhotoShop CS-5 with sight edits from scans of the negatives:

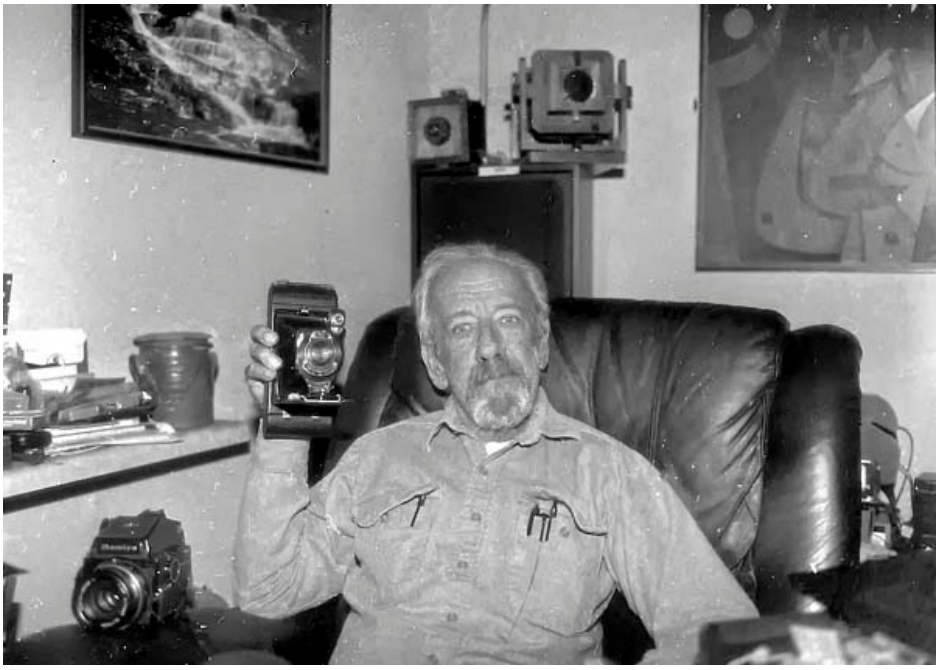
Above ^ backyard No Fill Flash

This ^ coffee cup / With Fill Flash

Above ^ woodpile / With Fill Flash

Being that this film is orthochromatic the use of “RAR films” are not very good for portrait work - I personally find the use is not very “flattering”.





[These photos were with a Direct Strobe Flash - and with a Bounced Flash.]

Thank you for reading. Remember to keep experimenting - because there is always another way to do things that are not conventional.

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